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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-21 are pending in the application, that claims 9-15 and 18-21 are objected to, and that claims 1-8, 16 and 17 stand rejected. By this response, claims 9-15, 18 and 20 are amended, claims 1-8 and 16-17 are cancelled and claims 22-28 are added to place this application in condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner. All other claims are un-amended by this response.

In view of the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of these claims now pending in the application are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 9-15 and 18-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the Applicant has amended claim 9 and claim 18 to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any respective intervening claims. In addition, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8 and 16-17. The Applicant has added claims 22-27 to reiterate previous claims 2-7 to now depend from new independent claim 9.

Having made these changes as suggested by the Examiner, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Applicant's invention, and specifically remaining claims 9-15 and 18-28, are in condition for allowance and now all satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

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Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,154, hereinafter "Cheong") in view of Moulton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,262, hereinafter "Moulton").

The Applicant has herein cancelled claims 1-4 and 16. Having done so, the Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's invention has been removed. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application be withdrawn.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5-8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheong in view of Moulton and further in view of Walter et al. (U.S. Patent 6,418,151, hereinafter "Walter").

The Applicant has herein cancelled claims 5-8 and 17. Having done so, the Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's invention has been removed. As such, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of the Applicant's application be withdrawn.

Applicant's Note

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out allowable subject matter in claims 9-15 and 18-21. The Applicant has herein taken the Examiner's suggestion and has rewritten claim 9 and claim 18 in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any respective intervening claims to make the claims allowable as suggested by the Examiner.

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Conclusion

Thus the Applicant submits that none of the claims, presently in the application, are obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Jorge Tony Villabon, Esq. at (732) 383-1396 x 1131 or Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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